



What Do Pond Invertebrates Eat?

Name	Food	Feeding Type
Flat worm	Small invertebrates eg mites, waterfleas	Carnivore
Freshwater worms	Decayed plants, algae	Herbivore (detritus)
Leech	Worms, snails, shrimps	Carnivore (parasitic)
Water fleas	Algae, bacteria, detritus	Herbivore (detritus)
Water louse	Detritus	Herbivore (detritus)
Freshwater shrimp	Plants, detritus	Herbivore
Water mites	Water fleas, shrimp, insect larvae	Carnivore (some parasitic)
Insects		
Mayfly nymph (young)	Algae	Herbivore
(older)	Other insects	Carnivore
Pond skater	Dead insects	Carnivore
Greater waterboatman	Insects, shrimps, snails	Carnivore
Lesser waterboatman	Algae, detritus	Herbivore

Saucer bug	Insects shrimps, snails	Carnivore
Caddisfly larva (young) (older)	Algae, plants, detritus Other insects	Herbivore Carnivore
Water scorpion	Insects shrimps, snails	Carnivore
Diving beetle	Any insect, snail or crustacean. Great diving beetle will eat newts	Carnivore
Damselfly nymph	Insects, crustaceans	Carnivore
Alderfly larva	Insects, crustaceans	Carnivore
Fly larvae - gnats, midges	Algae, detritus	Herbivore (filter feeders)
Ghost larvae	Water fleas	Carnivore
Molluscs		
Mussels	Algae, detritus	Herbivore (filter feeders)
Winkles & valve snails	Detritus	Herbivore (detritus feeder)
Pond snails	Algae, plants	Herbivore (grazing animal)
Ramshorn snail	Detritus	Herbivore (detritus feeder)

Notes

'*Detritus*' is the name given to the dead, rotting remains of plants and animals at the bottom of ponds.

Herbivores that feed on detritus are given the special name
'*detritivores*'.